



The old Midway Post Office from 1897 to 1917. It was operated by William and Mary Watkins.

E. Watkins was appointed postmistress. Her office was located in a small frame store building operated by her husband, William Watkins. They continued their store and post office until 1918 when poor health and failing eyesight forced them to retire.

Because Midway was only a fourth class post office, wages were paid only on a percentage of cancelled stamps, and the pay was small, usually averaging \$32 to \$37 a month, with a little more at Christmas time.

When the Watkins' retired there was no immediate successor who wanted to work at the wage offered and it appeared that the post office might be closed. However a young widow, Mrs. Cora Vail Bigler, was encouraged to accept the assignment, which she did. The post office was moved to an old school building on the southeast corner of the public square which had been completely renovated for the new post office.

Mrs. Bigler served until 1921 when she remarried, and her sister, Mrs. Naomi Burgener, who had come to Midway earlier to assist with the children, was appointed to the office on July 21, 1921. Assisting Mrs. Burgener were her daughters, Juanita, Geneva and Doris.

When the new Town Hall was being planned for construction, the post office building was selected as the site and the office had to be moved to the old German Hall during the time of construction. In July, 1938, the post office was moved into the east wing of the new Town Hall, and living quarters were also provided for the postmistress.

In 1945 Midway became a third class city, and Thelma Blood was chosen as a part time clerk in the post office. In 1958 Juanita Ross Zenger was appointed clerk and worked until Mrs. Burgener retired on April 30, 1959. Mrs. Zenger is currently acting as postmistress with Mrs. Lucille Kohler as assistant.

BOOSTERS CLUB

Midway's civic service club, The Boosters Club, was organized in 1947. There had been considerable interest shown that year in organizing a civic group, and when Joseph Erwin and his wife, Pauline, purchased Luke's Hot Pots, they invited Midway residents to use their facilities in organizing an association. After solicitations by several national organizations, a large group of townspeople met to organize their own club, which became known as the Boosters Club. Reed Kohler was elected the first president, with Francis Probst, first vice president, William Haueter, second vice president and Roy Huffaker, secretary-treasurer.

Many committees were selected to serve for the first year, and by September of 1947 the club had organized a highly successful celebration known as the Harvest Festival. A miniature parade was held, and a programmed theme to "Old Timers Live Again" drew many former residents back to the community.

In 1948, the organization was headed by Francis Probst. Roy Huffaker was first vice president with Reed Kohler second vice president and Fay Van Wagoner secretary-treasurer. During this year the group again staged the Harvest Festival, and a program directed by Vonda Huntington entitled "The Good Ship Midway" brought back many talented people who had left Midway. Also during 1948 the old buildings on the south west corner of the town square were torn down and earth was hauled in preparatory to building a community flower garden.

not established until 1893, and prior to that time, letters and news came through any available means from Provo and later Park City.

The early residents of Midway kept alive their family ties, and kept up to date on current news through the occasional riders that brought saddle bags of mail up from Provo. Descendants of some of the early Midway people have recounted tales of the anxious hours of waiting for the man on horseback to carry the mail up the rough trail through Provo Canyon, and of the great thrill of receiving mail.

Sidney H. Epperson, the presiding elder, once had a large crowd gather at his home as they waited for a newspaper to arrive reporting the outcome of the Sullivan-Kilrain championship boxing match that had been fought a month earlier on the Mississippi.

Many waited for news of events of the great Civil War, and tremblingly opened letters that told of their loved ones who were engaged in the conflict.

The mail that came by horseback through Provo Canyon usually had been carried across the continent by wagons following trails that began where rail lines ended. The co-op store operated by Bishop David Van Wagonen was a central meeting spot in the community, and soon became the location where people waited for the mails. So, when the post office was officially established in 1893 the Van Wagonen store was the logical post office and the proprietor the choice for postmaster.

Bishop Van Wagonen served as postmaster until 1897 when Mary

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